

IS THE BIBLE TRUE?

Topic: Is the Bible true?

Discuss and Summarize the Secular Worldview:

Sample Summary: The Bible is the holy book of Christianity and portions of it for Jews. Everyone can interpret it as they choose. It has many wise sayings in it, but the miracles are not naturally possible and God didn't create the world in 6 days because life evolved over billions of years.

Discuss and Summarize the Christian Worldview:

Sample Summary: While no one can prove the Bible is true or false beyond a shadow of a doubt. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ has changed the world. He fulfilled the prophecies of the messiah from the Old Testament. He will return.

Why This is Important:

If the Bible is true and Jesus Christ is "the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6, there is nothing else more important than our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior as described in the Bible. We should consider carefully about this question.

Scripture Says:

Genesis 1, Psalm 19:1, Psalm 119:160, Luke 1:1-4, John 1:36, John 14:6, John 17:17, John 18:37, John 20:30-31, Acts 17:11, Romans 1, Romans 3:4, 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:16, 1 John 4:1

Worth Considering:

- The Bible exhibits its truthfulness through internal consistency across the 66 books written by over 40 writers and 1600 years.
- The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls showed that the Biblical text had not changed over millennia. There are significantly more historical copies of Bible books than any other historical texts.
- Archeology supports the people, places and things of the Bible. For example, archeological digs of Jericho, Nineveh, and the Pool of Siloam show these places really existed. Artifacts bearing the

names of Biblical kings and leaders display its truthfulness. New archeological finds keep confirming the Bible is true.

- The Bible encourages readers to study and test it. We should read it naturally, as it was written. This includes historical narratives, wisdom, prophecy, law, poetry, etc.
- Prophecies were fulfilled, sometimes thousands of years later.
- Jesus was a real person. Non-Biblical texts confirm he lived and died a grueling death. New Testament books written through eyewitness accounts and the Apostle Paul confirm this along with his teachings and resurrection.
- The disciples were often confused about Jesus's teachings and fled from him as he was arrested and crucified. After Pentecost, they were bold in their faith, never denied his crucifixion and resurrection, and almost all were martyred for their faith.
- The lives who have been changed because of our faith in Jesus as Lord has impacted the world.
- The genealogies from Adam to Noah, state long life spans often well into 800 or 900 years. After the flood, the lifespans dropped off rapidly following an exponential decay curve. If these weren't real people, a fictional writer would likely use a linear reduction.
- Cultures around the world have over 100 creation and flood stories with varying details but many similarities to the Genesis account. Many also have Tower of Babel stories where languages were confused and people spread out. After Babel, common stories across cultures stop.

Questions to Consider:

- What level proof do you need for acceptance that someone like Abraham Lincoln or Aristotle were real, historical people? Is there ever enough proof for Jesus Christ to a skeptic?
- What would you say is the strongest evidence for each viewpoint?
- If the site of a Biblical location hasn't been found, does that prove the Bible wrong?
- Can the Bible and secular science be harmonized on this issue?
- Has today's discussion made you reconsider any of your views?

For Further Investigation on This Topic: